Status of BPL families

†*297. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has requested the Central Government to review the number of families which are to be accorded the status of BPL families under the guidelines of BPL Census-2002; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Rural Development in association with the State Governments and UTs conducts the BPL Census to identify the rural households living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) which could be assisted under its various programmes. The actual exercise relating to the identification of poor in rural areas for BPL Census 2002 was related to the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 of the Planning Commission inasmuch as that the total number of BPL families identified by the States should not exceed the Poverty Estimates of the Planning Commission. Subsequently, to address some of the concerns of the States, the option was given to the States for deciding the total number of rural BPL households equal to the Poverty Estimates of 1999-2000 of Planning Commission or the Adjusted Share as worked out by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher. In addition to this, the States were also given the flexibility of another 10% to account for the transient poor. This position continues. An Expert Group has been constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development to suggest a suitable methodology to conduct BPL Census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period to identify the BPL households in the rural areas.

Implementation of Centrally sponsored schemes

*298. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Centrally sponsored schemes are implemented by the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has devised a system to ensure that unless the first installment is utilized to achieve the target in time, further funds would not be released and that the right to implement be taken over by Central agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what are the stringent measures to ensure proper implementation of Central schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are implemented by States or their agencies, irrespective of their pattern of financing.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to (e) No Sir, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at the present. The modalities in respect of the implementation of these Schemes are worked out by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments of Central Government in consultation with the State Governments. Releases to the states for CSS are made in installments by Administrative Ministries concerned and the details of releases about these schemes are available with them. The criteria for allocation of funds under CSS to individual States is finalized by the Ministry in consultation with the State Governments and Planning Commission. The monitoring is done by the respective administrative Ministries.

Interview dates based on community

*299. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the selected candidates for UPSC Exam are allotted interview dates on the basis of community, that is OC, OBC, SC and ST, and that this segregation has resulted in SC and OBC candidates invariably getting lower marks than the candidates from OC category;

(b) whether this segregation is not against the spirit of Social Justice enshrined in the Constitution of India;

(c) whether the Interview Boards are aware of the communal background of the candidates; and

(d) if so, what is the guarantee that marks awarded would not be from bias?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The segregation is as per the MHA's OM No. 1/1/70-Estt (SCT) dated 31st July, 1970 which provides that the interview for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates should be held on a day or sitting of the Selection Committee other than the day or sitting on which general candidates are to be interviewed so that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates are not judged in comparison with other general candidates and the interviewing authority/board is/are prominently aware of the need for judging the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates by relaxed standards. Thus the Question of getting lower marks by the reserved community candidates due to this segregation does not arise.

(b) The segregation of candidates, in fact, is aimed at reinforcing the spirit of social justice enshrined in the Constitution of India.

(c) and (d) The community status of the reserved category candidates are not divulged before the members of the Interview Board except the Chairman of the Interview Board. Therefore, the question of being biased in awarding marks due to awareness of communal background of candidates by the Board of Interview does not arise.

E-District Project

*300. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: